

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 HEW-08

ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01

RSR-01 /188 W

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P R 070957 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9637

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1998

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, PFOR, PINT, AORG, AFIN, KS, KN, BG

SUBJECT: 16 TH WHA: BACKGROUND ON BENGALIEE DELEGATION

REF: DACCA 1987; NEW DELHI 5278 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: INASMUCH AS BANGLADESH DELGATION TO WHA REPORTEDLY UNINSTRUCTED AS TO HOW TO VOTE ON KEY ISSUES OF POSTPONEMENT CONSIDERATION NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN WHO AND PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION CEILING, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE PASS ALONG SOME BACKGROUND OBSERVATIONS ON THAT DELGATION WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN ANY CONTACTS USMISSION GENEVA MAY HAVE WITH IT.

1. HEAD OF DELEGATION ABDUL MANNAN, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND ERSTWHILE HOME MINISTER (INTERNAL SECURITY), WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE AMONG MORE INEPT MEMBERS OF CABINET. MANNAN 44- YEAR OLD PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN AND LONGTIME MEMBER RULING AWAMI LEAGUE PARTY. WAS ARRESTED AND ALLEGEDLY TORTURED BY PAKS IN MARCH 1971 CRACKDOWN. LEFT SAME MONTH FOR INDIA, WHERE HE

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WAS ONE OF ORGANIZERS BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT- IN- EXILE. TOOK OVER HIS PRESENT CABINET PORTFOLIO IN MARCH 1973 AFTER FAILING AS HOME MINISTER IN PREVIOUS CABINET. IS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

2. ANOTHER DELEGATE, DR. K. A. KHALEQUE, IS APPROXIMATELY 45-YEAR OLD (BELIEVROVINCE, WOUNDING 2 PASSENGERS. TWO BOXCARS WERE HEAVILY DAMAGED AND 20 METERS OF RAILROAD TRACK DESTROYED.

5. COUNSUL GENERAL HAS RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM ARVN III CORPS CHIEF OF STAFF COL. NGO VAN MINH OF EARLIER REPORTS FROM POLOFF TAN AN REGARDING CROSS- BORDER PATROL OPERATIONS BY THE 83 RD BORDER RANGER BATTALION BASED IN WESTERN DUC HUE DISTRI T, HAU NGHAI PROVINCE. THESE OPERATIONS ARE NOT NEW, HOWEVER. THE 83 RD HAS BEEN SENDING OUT PATROLS ON ALMOST A DAILY BASIS SINCE WELL BEFORE THE CEASE- FIRE; SOME OF THESE PATROLS HAVE CORSSSED INTO CAMBODIA IN THE PAST.

PART IX MR-4

1. MR-4 REPORTED 54 INCIDENTS ON SUNDAY, MAY 6, DOWN SOMEWHAT FROM THE INTENSE FIGHTING AT THE END OF THE WEEK. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES FOR THE WEEKEND WERE 56 KILLED, 241 WOUNDED, AND SIX MISSING. THE OPPOSITION REPORTEDLY LOST 97 KILLED AND FIVE CAPTURED.

2. GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 29- MAY 5 WERE THE HIGHEST SINCE THE FIRST WEEK OF THE CEASEFIRE. RVNAF LOST 281 DEAD AND 921 WOUNDED. COMMUNIST CASUALTIES, ON THE OTHER HWND, WERE RELATIVELY LOW; 353 KILLED. EXCEPT FOR THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH, THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS THE LOWEST NUMBER OF COMMUNIST CASUALTIES SINCE THE JANUARY CEASSEFIRE.

3. THE RISING GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES REFLECT THE CRESCENDO OF VIOLENCE IN THE DELTA THIS WEEK. THERE WERE NO DRAMATIC, LARGE SVALE BATTLES BUT A SERIES OF COMMUNIST INITIATED GROUND ASSAULTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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ABF' S, AND HARASSMENTS TOOK A BLOODY TOLL OF GOVERNMENT FORCES, AND PERMITTED THE COMMUNISTS TO WITHDRAW WITH RELATIVELY LIGHT LOSSES. THEUE ATTACKS WERE SPREAD ACROSS THE DELTA WITH THE HEAVIEST OCCURRING IN CHUONG THIEN, DINH TUONG, AND SOUTHERN PHONG DINH AND BA XUYEN PROVINCES.

4. A TEN- SHIP MEKONG RIVER CONVOY CARRYING AMMUNITION, POL, AND SUPPLIES TO PHNOM PENH CROSSED THE CAMBODIAN FRONTIER AT 1110 HOURS MAY 6 WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE CONVOY WAS ESCORTED BY A VNN FLOTILLA OF 35 BOATS WHICH TURNED BACK AT THE BORDER.

6. POLOFF IN BA XUYEN HAS OBTAINED MORE DETAILS ON THE BLOODY

VC ATTACK ON THE GIA HOA VILLAGE SEAT MAY 3 (SAIGON 7845 MAY 4 SITREP). THE DISTRICT CHIEF, HAVING RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE THAT AN ATTACK WAS IMMINENT, REINFORCED THE VILLAGE MILITARY UNITS WITH A CRACK RF PLATOON. DESPITE THESE PRECAUTIONS, ALL THE DEFENDERS WERE ASLEEP WHEN THE ATTACK CAME IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS. ALMOST ALL THE CASUALTIES WERE MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THEIR DEPENDENTS. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAIN SECURITY SITUATION, NO CIVILIAN HOMES WERE LOCATED IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE VILLAGE OFFICE.

6. POLOFF IN RACH GIA NOTES THAT SECURITY IN KIEN GIANG HAS INCREASED IN SOME DISTRICTS AND DECLINED IN OTHERS SINCE JANUARY 28. RACH GIA CITY AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS HAVE SEEN LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY. FARMERS ARE PREPARING TO PLANT RICE IN UP TO 6000 HECTARES OF LAND WHICH HAS LAIN FALLOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS. BUT SECURITY HAS DETERIORATED IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF THE PROVINCE, ESPECIALLY KIEN BINH. AN INFORMAL TRUCE EXISTS BETWEEN LOCAL RF AND PF UNITS AND TWO NEWLY INFILTRATED VC/ NVA MAIN FORCE BATTALIONS. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS STALEMATE, VC CADRE AND GUERRILLAS ARE BOLDER AND HAVE INCREASED THEIR TAX COLLECTING, RECRUITING, PROPAGANDIZING, AND HARASSMENT OF PF OUTPOSTS. WHITEHOUSE

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